

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A polymer complex comprising the reaction product of one or more polymers having a terminal or pendant hydroxyl group, [[or]] a terminal or pendent carboxyl group, or combinations thereof, said one or more polymers ~~including a~~ are selected from a group consisting of polyurethanes, polyurethane-ureas, polyesters, polyacrylates, and ketone-formaldehyde copolymer copolymers, with at least one metal ~~complex~~ orthoester and at least one alkyl phosphate.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The polymer complex of claim [[2]] 1, wherein said metal orthoester has the formula metal(OR)₄, wherein each of the four R groups is independently an alkyl group.

4. (Original) The polymer complex of claim 3, wherein said alkyl group is a C₁ to C₈ alkyl group.

5. (Original) The polymer complex of claim 3, wherein said alkyl group is a C₃ to C₄ alkyl group.

6. (Currently Amended) The polymer complex of claim [[2]] 1, wherein said metal orthoester is tetraisopropyltitanate.

7. (Currently Amended) The polymer complex of claim 1, wherein said alkyl phosphate is a monoalkyl phosphate having the formula R₁PO(OH)₂ [[and]] or a dialkyl phosphate having the formula (R₂O)(R₃O)PO(OH), wherein each of R₁, R₂ and R₃ is independently an alkyl.

8. (Previously Presented) The polymer complex of claim 7, wherein said alkyl group is a C₁ to C₁₀ alkyl group.

9. (Original) The polymer complex of claim 7, wherein said alkyl group is a C₁ to C₅ alkyl group.

10. (Original) The polymer complex of claim 1, wherein said alkyl phosphate is amyl acid phosphate.

11. (Currently Amended) The polymer complex of claim 1, wherein said polymer is ~~natural or~~ synthetic polymer.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) An adhesion promoting agent in an ink or coating composition comprising the reaction product of one or more polymers having a terminal or pendant hydroxyl group, [[or]] a terminal or pendent carboxyl group, or combinations thereof, said one or more polymers including a ketone-formaldehyde copolymer, with at least one metal ~~complex~~ orthoester, and at least one alkyl phosphate.

14. (Currently Amended) The adhesion promoting agent of claim 13 wherein said agent also promotes viscosity stability in [[an]] the ink or coating composition.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) The agent of claim [[15]] 14, wherein said metal orthoester has the formula metal(OR)₄, wherein each of the four R groups is independently an alkyl group.

17. (Original) The agent of claim 16, wherein said alkyl group is a C₁ to C₈ alkyl group.

18. (Original) The agent of claim 16, wherein said alkyl group is a C₃ to C₄ alkyl group.

19. (Original) The agent of claim 15, wherein said metal orthoester is tetraisopropyltitanate.

20. (Currently Amended) The agent of claim 13, wherein said alkyl phosphate is a monoalkyl phosphate having the formula R₁PO(OH)₂ [[and]] or a dialkyl phosphate having the formula (R₂O)(R₃O)PO(OH), wherein each of R₁, R₂ and R₃ is independently an alkyl.

21. (Previously Presented) The agent of claim 20, wherein said alkyl group is a C₁ to C₁₀ alkyl group.

22. (Original) The agent of claim 20, wherein said alkyl group is a C₁ to C₅ alkyl group.

23. (Original) The agent of claim 13, wherein said alkyl phosphate is amyl acid phosphate.

24. (Currently Amended) The agent of claim 13, wherein said polymer is ~~natural or~~ synthetic polymer.

25. (Canceled)

26. (Currently Amended) An ink or coating composition containing an adhesion promoting agent comprising the reaction product of one or more polymers having a terminal or pendant hydroxyl group, [[or]] a terminal or pendent carboxyl group, or combinations thereof, said one or more polymers including a ketone-formaldehyde copolymer, with at least one metal ~~complex~~ orthoester and at least one alkyl phosphate.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim ~~[[27]]~~ 26, wherein said metal orthoester has the formula $\text{metal}(\text{OR})_4$, wherein each of the four R groups is independently an alkyl group.

29. (Original) The composition of claim 28, wherein said alkyl group is a C_1 to C_8 alkyl group.

30. (Original) The composition of claim 28, wherein said alkyl group is a C_3 to C_4 alkyl group.

31. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim ~~[[27]]~~ 26, wherein said metal orthoester is tetraisopropyltitanate.

32. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 26, wherein said alkyl phosphate is a monoalkyl phosphate having the formula $\text{R}_1\text{PO}(\text{OH})_2$ ~~[[and]]~~ or a dialkyl phosphate having the formula $(\text{R}_2\text{O})(\text{R}_3\text{O})\text{PO}(\text{OH})$, wherein each of R_1 , R_2 and R_3 is independently an alkyl.

33. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 32, wherein said alkyl group is a C_1 to C_{10} alkyl group.

34. (Original) The composition of claim 32, wherein said alkyl group is a C_1 to C_5 alkyl group.

35. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 26, wherein said alkyl phosphate is amyl acid phosphate.

36. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 26, wherein said polymer is ~~natural or~~ synthetic polymer.

37. (Canceled)

38. (Currently Amended) A method of improving the adhesion performance of an ink or coating composition comprising adding to said composition an agent comprising the reaction product of one or more polymers having a terminal or pendant hydroxyl group, ~~[[or]]~~ a terminal or pendent carboxyl group, or combinations thereof, said one or more polymers including a ketone-formaldehyde copolymer, and at least one metal ~~complex~~ orthoester and at least one alkyl phosphate.

39. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 38 wherein the viscosity stability of ~~[[an]]~~ the ink or coating composition is also enhanced.

40. (Canceled)

41. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[40]]~~ 38, wherein said metal orthoester has the formula $\text{metal}(\text{OR})_4$, wherein each of the four R groups is independently an alkyl group.

42. (Original) The method of claim 41, wherein said alkyl group is a C_1 to C_8 alkyl group.

43. (Original) The method of claim 41, wherein said alkyl group is a C_3 to C_4 alkyl group.

44. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[40]]~~ 38, wherein said metal orthoester is tetraisopropylitanate.

45. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 38, wherein said alkyl phosphate is a monoalkyl phosphate having the formula $\text{R}_1\text{PO}(\text{OH})_2$ ~~[[and]]~~ or a dialkyl phosphate having the formula $(\text{R}_2\text{O})(\text{R}_3\text{O})\text{PO}(\text{OH})$, wherein each of R_1 , R_2 and R_3 is independently an alkyl.

46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45, wherein said alkyl group is a C_1 to C_{10} alkyl group.

47. (Original) The method of claim 45, wherein said alkyl group is a C₁ to C₅ alkyl group.

48. (Original) The method of claim 38, wherein said alkyl phosphate is amyl acid phosphate.

49. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 38, wherein said polymer is ~~natural~~ ~~or~~ synthetic polymer.

50. (Canceled)

51. (Currently Amended) A method of stabilizing the viscosity of an ink or coating composition comprising adding to said composition an agent comprising the reaction product of one or more polymers having a terminal or pendant hydroxyl group, [[or]] a terminal or pendent carboxyl group, or combinations thereof, said one or more polymers including a ketone-formaldehyde copolymer, with at least one metal ~~complex~~ orthoester and at least one alkyl phosphate.

52. (Canceled)

53. (Original) The method of claim 51, wherein said metal orthoester has the formula metal(OR)₄, wherein each of the four R groups is independently an alkyl group.

54. (Original) The method of claim 53, wherein said alkyl group is a C₁ to C₈ alkyl group.

55. (Original) The method of claim 53, wherein said alkyl group is a C₃ to C₄ alkyl group.

56. (Original) The method of claim 51, wherein said metal orthoester is tetraisopropyltitanate.

57. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 51, wherein said alkyl phosphate is a monoalkyl phosphate having the formula $R_1PO(OH)_2$ ~~[[and]]~~ or a dialkyl phosphate having the formula $(R_2O)(R_3O)PO(OH)$, wherein each of R_1 , R_2 and R_3 is independently an alkyl.

58. (Original) The method of claim 57, wherein said alkyl group is a C_1 to C_{10} alkyl group.

59. (Original) The method of claim 57, wherein said alkyl group is a C_1 to C_5 alkyl group.

60. (Original) The method of claim 51, wherein said alkyl phosphate is amyl acid phosphate.

61. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 51, wherein said polymer is ~~natural~~ or synthetic polymer.

62. (Canceled)